GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3123
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
PLANTATION SCHEME IN COAL EXTRACTION AREAS
Mahto Shri Tek Lal

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken plantation of fruit bearing trees under the plantation scheme by levelling large ditches and heaps of soil/waste material emanating from coal extraction in Jharkhand and adjacent hilly and barren land areas;

(b) if so, the details of the plantation work carried out during the last three years and the current year till date alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon, year-wise and location-wise;

(c) the details of the contribution made by the CCL and the BCCL therein;

(d) whether any standing orders have been issued by the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, whether these orders are being followed properly; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO):

(a) Plantation activities are undertaken over backfilled, areas besides external over burden dumps, plains, roads, etc. by Coal India Limited. Percentage of fruit bearing trees generally vary between 10% and 15% of the total plantation. Backfilling on voids created by coal extraction, however, can not be taken up in many mines because of multi seam working. Hence plantation activities cannot be undertaken in such places, till coal reserves in all the seams are exhausted.

(b) The details of the plantation work carried out during last three years and current year till date, year-wise and district-wise along with expenditure, incurred thereon are given below:
In Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), plantations are taken up on receipt of funds, specific for the purpose under certain schemes, as under Jharia action plan in the current year. In the past when fund was not available, only small quantities were done in the form of departmental work for which the cost incurred was inconsequential.

(c) The complete plantation work of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) is done from its own fund and the CCL have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 464.50 Lakh from the year 2003-04 till date in the current year. The expenditure of Rs.24.60 lakhs in BCCL in the current year is out of the corpus made out of contribution from Government of India and Coal India Limited for implementation of Jharia Action Plan.

(d) to (f) The Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 provides for the protection and improvement of environment. Besides, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and other related acts are also applicable to coal mines, the provisions of which are complied which Coal India Limited has also formulated guidelines in this regard for implementation by its coal producing companies and also for mitigating the adverse environmental impacts of mining activities. In compliance with such guidelines, massive plantation,in and around the work place and residential zones, in the command areas of the companies are undertaken as a significant mitigating measures.